

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 960

By Favors

A RESOLUTION recognizing the Women's Heart Health Initiative—A Call to Action.

WHEREAS, heart disease, often called the “silent killer,” continues to be the number one killer of women, causing a woman to die from heart disease every sixty seconds; and

WHEREAS, heart disease claims more women's lives than the next eight causes of death combined, including breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of American women who die suddenly from heart disease had no prior symptoms; and

WHEREAS, African American women and Latina women have higher heart disease and stroke risk factors than Caucasian women of comparable socioeconomic status, with heart disease being the number one killer of African American women; and

WHEREAS, increasing the number of women of different races and various age groups in cardiovascular clinical trials is pivotal to identifying the best treatment options for heart disease and stroke in all women; and

WHEREAS, continuation of programs such as “Go Red for Women,” led by the American Heart Association, and WISEWOMAN, created by the Centers for Disease Control, are designed to improve prevention through early diagnosis connected with the ability to access the best treatment, are vital to addressing women's heart health; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Heart Health Initiative explores a non-traditional venue to provide additional cardiovascular screening for women during their obstetrician/gynecologist office visits that can be of further assistance to health care providers in early identification, education, and the prevention of heart disease; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize there is a monumental need for “A Call to Action,” to devise strategies, with a strong emphasis on recognizing the warning signs of a cardiovascular event, that encompasses socioeconomic factors, cultural barriers, and lifestyle choices for those women at highest risk, thereby decreasing the deaths of one in three women dying of heart disease and stroke each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage that public policy be implemented and monitored by the Tennessee department of health to establish and collaborate with private partners to raise awareness and promote education of heart disease, to increase screening programs that will identify risk factors in women to aid in the early detection and prevention of heart disease, to ensure access to medical treatment protocols for heart disease, and lastly, to provide suggestions and support for lifestyle choices that contribute to the management of heart disease for those women at highest risk, in order to improve the quality of life for all women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health.